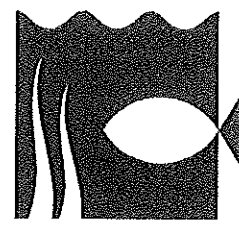


**Connecticut Fund
for the Environment**



Save the Sound®
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Connecticut Fund for the Environment

**Testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment
Before the Commerce Committee**

In Support of:

**Raised Bill 5340, AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY-RELATED JOBS TASK
FORCE**

Submitted by

Charles J. Rothenberger, Staff Attorney

March 6, 2012

Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is a non-profit environmental organization with over 5,400 members statewide. The mission of CFE is to protect and improve the land, air and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. For more than twenty-five years, CFE has used legal and scientific expertise to bring people together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

Senator LeBeau, Representative Berger and members of the Committee, Connecticut Fund for the Environment is pleased to have the opportunity to testify in support of Raised Bill 5340, An Act Establishing An Energy-Related Jobs Task Force.

This bill quite appropriately focuses on job-growth and economic development opportunities in the energy-efficiency and clean, renewable energy sectors. Increasing our commitment to energy efficiency can provide a significant boost to the state's economy, not only by keeping consumer dollars in the state, rather than spending them on imported energy fuel stock, but also through the direct stimulant of job creation. Depending on the fuel, between 41 and 48 jobs are created for every \$1 million invested in efficiency; those investments contribute an average of \$6.00 to the GSP for every dollar invested. Increasing the total annual investment (public and private) available for efficiency programs for all fuels to \$432 million per year would result in:

- 17,000 new jobs annually
- \$2.43 billion annual Gross State Product increase
- 137 million tons of avoided CO2 emissions

Efficiency programs require and create jobs for skilled and experienced engineers, technicians and installers to identify and implement energy saving opportunities and strategies. But sufficient attention must be paid to developing and training a workforce that will be able to meet the demand produced by Connecticut's ambitious energy goals, among which are:

- Reducing electricity consumption by at least 2 percent, per annum
- Reducing natural gas energy consumption by at least 1 percent, per annum

According to the 2010 Bureau of Labor Statistics, with roughly 93,500 direct and indirect jobs, the American solar industry now employs about 9,200 more workers than the U.S. steel production sector (traditionally the symbol of the country's industrial health and economic prosperity). In Germany, there are now more than 100,000 workers employed in the German solar PV industry. With a population about one-quarter the size of the United States, that makes the German solar industry more than four times as large an employer than US steel based on country size.

In light of these statistics, we applaud the Committee's commitment to securing Connecticut's place in the global economy by creating a formal process through which to develop the strategies and programs necessary to develop and support the state's clean energy workforce.

With respect to the make-up of the Committee, I would respectfully suggest that both the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Clean Energy Finance Investment Authority should be represented given their important roles in the development of energy efficiency and clean energy policy in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.